

THE DEATH OF
DOCTOR
STRANGE

THE

AVENGERS

MARVEL

1

PAKNADEL
BODENHEIM
ROSENBERG



And there came a day, a day unlike any other, when Earth's mightiest heroes found themselves united against a common threat! On that day, the Avengers were born—to fight the foes no single super hero could withstand!

THE DEATH OF DOCTOR STRANGE THE AVENGERS

Previously...

Doctor Stephen Strange was Earth's Sorcerer Supreme, a title granted to one whose skills in the mystic arts are greater than any other being. And with that came the responsibility to preserve a magic barrier around the Earth that warded off other dimensional threats.

But now, Doctor Strange has been mysteriously murdered, and that barrier has fallen.

The planet is being invaded by multiple dimensions. Without Doctor Strange, who can fight these forces back?

Alex Paknadel **Ryan Bodenheim**
WRITER ARTIST

Rachelle Rosenberg **VC's Cory Petit**
COLORIST LETTERING

Steve Skroce & Dave Stewart
COVER

Creees Lee & Espen Grundetjern
VARIANT COVER

Kat Gregorowicz **Darren Shan** **C.B. Cebulski**
ASSISTANT EDITOR EDITOR EDITOR IN CHIEF

DOCTOR STRANGE CREATED BY STAN LEE & STEVE DITKO
AVENGERS CREATED BY STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY

WAKANDA, YEARS AGO. FIRST MEETING OF THE ILLUMINATI.

BEAUTIFUL,
AREN'T THEY?

SURE. THAT'S
ONE WAY OF
PUTTING IT.

THIS ONE REMINDS ME
OF A BALINESE MASK MY
DAD HAD IN HIS OFFICE
WHEN I WAS LITTLE--
PURE NIGHTMARE FUEL.

I USED TO DARE
MYSELF TO GO IN THERE
WHILE HE WAS OUT. NEVER
LASTED MORE THAN A
FEW SECONDS.

A NATURAL REACTION.
APOTROPAIC
OBJECTS ARE OFTEN
MORE UNSETTLING THAN
THE FORCES THEY'RE
DESIGNED TO
REPEL.

COME ON,
DOC... I'M AN
ENGINEER. HOW
ABOUT I HOLD FORTH
ON NEGATIVE-INDEX
METAMATERIALS--SEE
HOW YOU LIKE IT?

MY APOLOGIES,
IRON MAN. APOTROPAIC
MAGIC WARDS OFF BAD LUCK
AND MALIGN INFLUENCES--
OFTEN THROUGH OBJECTS SUCH
AS AMULETS, GARGOYLES
AND--YES--MASKS.

SO...YOU SCARE
OFF THE MONSTER
UNDER THE BED WITH AN
EVEN SCARIER ONE.

FUNNY. IN A
WAY THAT'S WHY
I CALLED THIS
MEETING...



...IT'S GETTING
PRETTY CROWDED
UNDER THAT BED.

PUTTING
TOGETHER A
CABAL, ARE WE?
I'M INTRIGUED.

ALTHOUGH
MR. FANTASTIC
Tells ME YOU HAVE
RESERVATIONS
ABOUT ME.

MAY
I ASK
WHY?

IN A WORD:
TRUST.



TRUST?

IT'S NOT PERSONAL.
I KNOW YOU'RE GOOD
AT WHAT YOU DO, BUT
I HATED NOT BEING ABLE
TO FIGURE OUT PARLOR
TRICKS AS A KID, AND I LIKE
IT EVEN LESS NOW.

I CAN'T TRUST
WHAT I DON'T
UNDERSTAND.

YOUR
FELLOW
AVENGER IS A
NORSE
GOD.



NO, MY FELLOW
AVENGER IS A REN FAIRE
REJECT WITH A BIG
FREAKING HAMMER.

HE'S
AN OPEN
BOOK.

BUT YOU...
YOU'RE ENTROPY
REVERSAL AND
HYPERBOLIC
GEOMETRY AND...
AND SAWING
PROBABILITIES
IN HALF.

YOU
REPRESENT A
WORLD
WITHOUT
RULES, STRANGE.
I CAN'T
HAVE THAT.

AND IF YOU'RE
WONDERING WHY
YOU WERE INVITED...

"...IT'S BECAUSE OUR
HOST TRUSTS YOU."

"AH. YOU'RE HOPING I'LL
BACK YOUR PLAY WITH
THE BLACK PANTHER."

"I EMBODY EVERYTHING
KING T'CHALLA
MISTRUSTS, STRANGE."

"HIS COUNTRY SITS ON
A VAST DEPOSIT OF THE
WORLD'S MOST PRECIOUS
AND DURABLE METAL..."



"...AND I...AM
WEARING A SUIT
MADE OF METAL."

SO NO,
HE DOESN'T
TRUST ME.

NOR
SHOULD
HE.



HE'S
COMING.

IT WOULDN'T
DO TO ENTER
AFTER A KING,
SO WE SHOULD
PROBABLY TAKE
OUR SEATS.



WAIT...

DOES IT
WORK?



I'M
SORRY?

APOTROPAIC
MAGIC, THE MASKS--
DO THEY WORK?



TONK TONK

YOU TELL
ME...

...IRON
MAN.



FLORIDA EVERGLADES, NOW.

THERE ARE PLACES
IN THIS WORLD--
ANCIENT, POROUS
PLACES--WHERE
MAGIC SPROUTS
LIKE SAW GRASS.

HERE, AT THE END OF
UNMARKED TRAILS, FLESH
CAN BECOME WOOD IF
ONE LINGERS TOO LONG.

THE SWAMP HAS ITS OWN TIME.
ITS OWN LAWS. WHEN EMPIRES
FALL TO FIRE AND WANT, THESE
WISE WATERS BARELY RIPLE.

IT IS A SITE OF ELDRITCH
COMINGS AND GOINGS--

--WHERE INCAUTIOUS
TRAVELERS BUMP INTO
THEMSELVES UNDER
THE MOONLIGHT.

THE GUARDIAN
OF THE NEXUS,
THE **MAN-THING**--
WHERE IS HE?

ISN'T IT
OBVIOUS?

BUT EVERY NOW AND THEN,
ON DAYS LIKE TODAY...

...THE SWAMP
ATTRACTS STRANGER
TRAVELERS STILL.

THE **MAN-THING**
IS **COMPELLED**--
CURSED--TO BURN
ALL WHO FEAR.

THE SORCERER
SUPREME HAS BEEN **SLAIN**,*
BREAKING THE SPELL THAT
PROTECTS THIS PLANET FROM
EXTRADIMENSIONAL
THREATS.

YES. AND OUR
MASTERS HAVE BUILT
STRONGHOLDS IN
THIS SHABBY
REALM.

ALL THAT
TERROR OUT
THERE...

*SEE THE DEATH OF
DOCTOR STRANGE #1! --DS



...ENOUGH
TO MAKE THE
CREATURE ABANDON
ITS POST, YES.

IT'S BEAUTIFUL.
WHERE DOES IT
LEAD?

EVERYWHERE.
IT IS THE NEXUS OF
ALL REALITIES.

TIBORO
SMILES UPON
US!



DO NOT
INVOKE THAT
NAME, BOY!

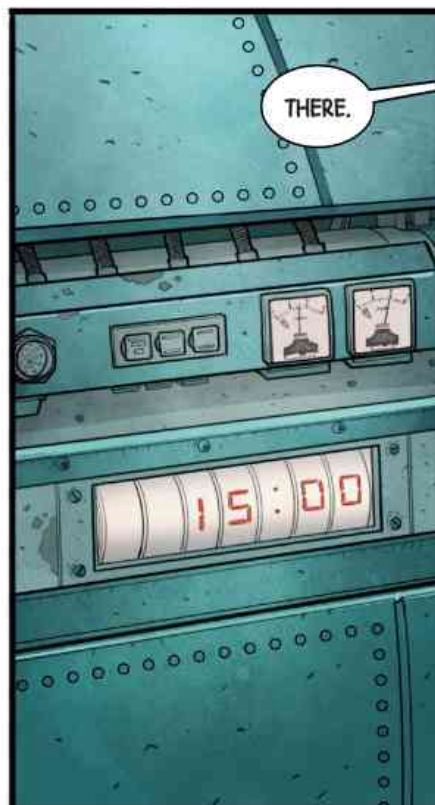
THE **BOMB** IS
GREAT AGGAMON'S!
THE **PLAN** IS GREAT
AGGAMON'S!

I...HAVE
TO ARM THE
DEVICE...



THE NEXUS CAN ONLY BE
DESTROYED FROM *WITHIN*,
SO ONE OF US WILL HAVE
TO PLANT THE BOMB AND
RETURN WITH ALL
HASTE.

I WOULD
PREFER NOT TO.
JUST PUTTING THAT
OUT THERE.



THERE.



THIS WORLD
AND ITS RESOURCES
ARE FINITE! LET THE
FLOTSAM OF OTHER
MAGICAL REALMS FIND
THEIR **OWN** PLACES
OF REFUGE!

BOY!
BEHIND
YOU!

EVEN THROUGH
THE CONSTRUCT,
THE SURVIVOR
CAN FEEL THE LACKEYS
CRUNCH UNDERFOOT
LIKE SEASHELLS.



FATHER WOULD
BE SO PROUD.















"YOU DON'T BRING A BOMB TO A THRESHOLD UNLESS SOMETHING SCARY'S ABOUT TO CROSS OVER."

KRAKOOM

UGGHH!

THEY'RE NOT--
NNN!--ATTACKING
CIVILIANS! THEY JUST
WANT METAL FOR
THAT SPIRE!

NNN!
BUT TO
WHAT
END?

BIG
GUY'S RIGHT,
STEVE!

NOW
HANG ON, I'VE
GOT YOU!



KRSHH HH

WHAT
THE--?!



CAP,
LOOK
O--!

HNNN!



GKKK!
HOLLOW AS A
SKOGSRA.

A
MARIONETTE
WITH NO
SOUL.



NO
SOUL...



IT COILS AROUND HIM LIKE THE GREAT SERPENT IN THE EDDAS OF HIS PEOPLE, BUT HOW COMFORTABLE HE SEEMS IN ITS GRIP!

"HOW LIGHTLY MEN WEAR THEIR WRATH," THE SURVIVOR THINKS. "EVEN AS IT GRINDS THEIR HEARTS TO POWDER."

THAT IS WHY THE MOURNINGSPYRE **MUST** BE PROTECTED AT ALL COSTS.

MORE.

THE SURVIVOR HAS SEEN RAGE LIKE THIS IN ANOTHER.

WAIT... THE CRIMSON BANDS OF CYTTORAK!

WASN'T THIS ONE OF STEPHEN'S SPELLS?!



TONY, DID YOU CATCH ALL THAT?

SURE DID. GOOD NEWS, RIGHT? IF THOSE THINGS ARE CYTTORAK CONSTRUCTS, THEN YOU CAN REALLY CUT LOOSE.

BUT WHO'S CASTING THE SPELL?!



NOT MY LANE, PAL. NUKING THE NEXUS ON THE OTHER HAND...

TONY, I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH SOME THINGS, BUT...

ACID-SPITTING MAGIC WORMS, CAROL. INSIDE MY ARMOR.

WE NEED TO TAKE BACK SOME CONTROL HERE.



B.O.S.S.? WHAT'S ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS PORTAL?

TONY! DON'T DO IT!

DON'T YOU BLOW UP THAT POR--!



<UNKNOWN.>

→SIGH←

MISTER FANTASTIC'S FAVORITE WORD.



NOT MINE THOUGH. NO, SIR.

FOR ME, IT SITS SOMEWHERE BETWEEN "AUDIT" AND "PAPARAZZI."



TONY, DID YOU CATCH ALL THAT?

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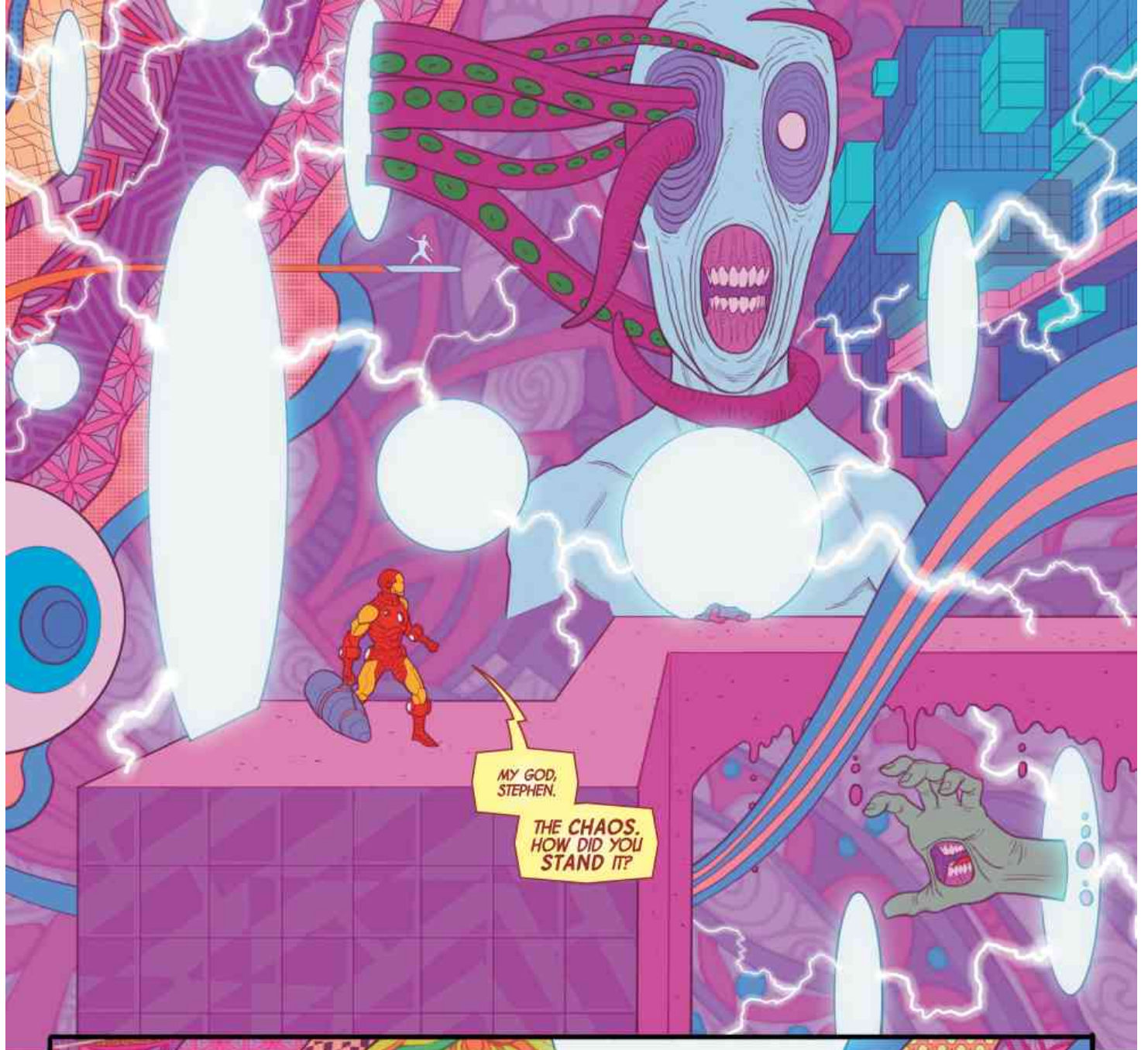
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MY GOD,
STEPHEN.

THE CHAOS.
HOW DID YOU
STAND IT?

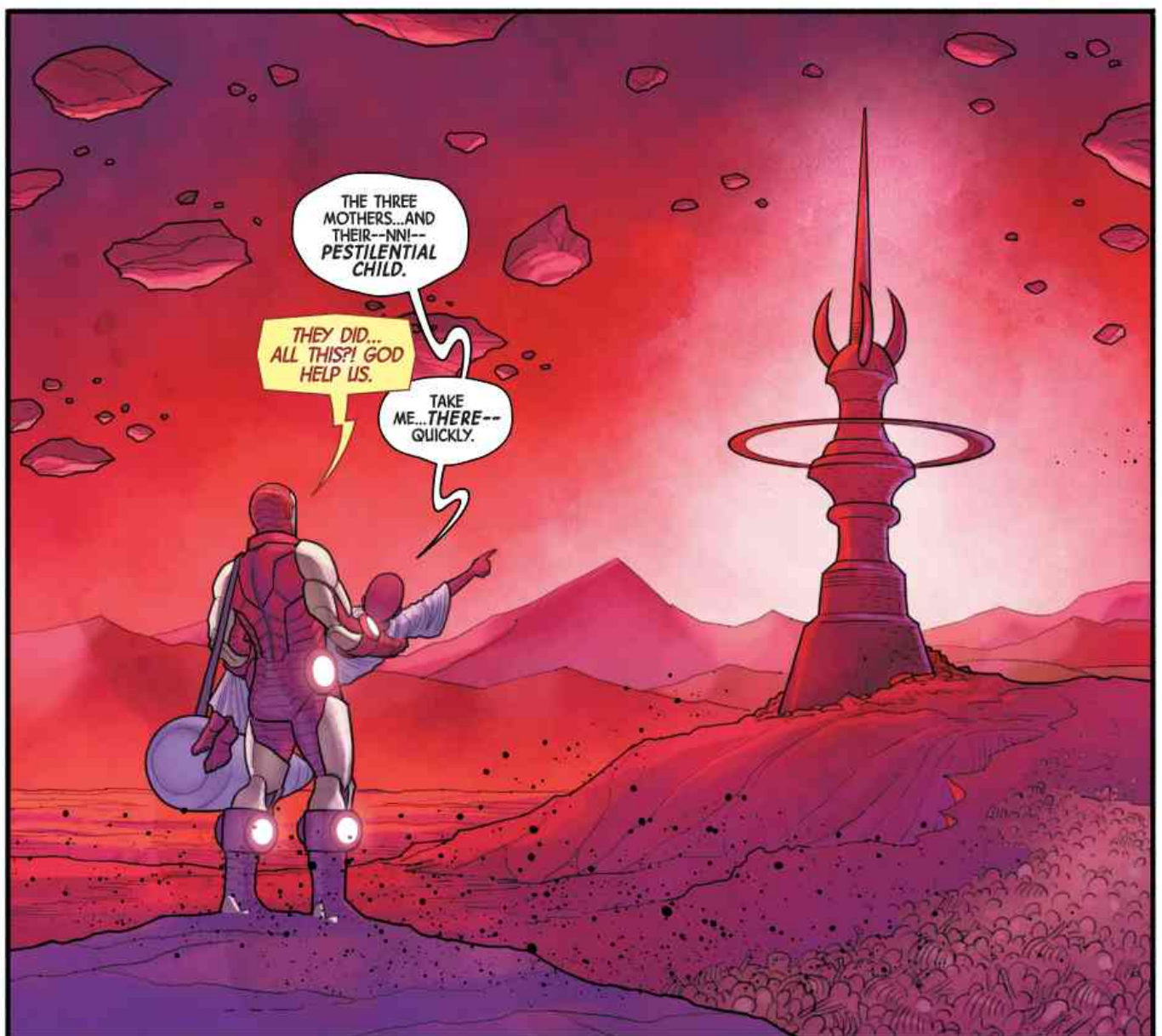
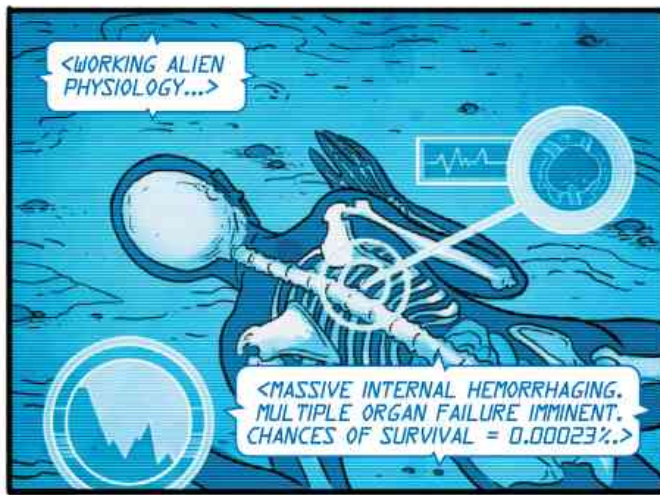
OH
MY...

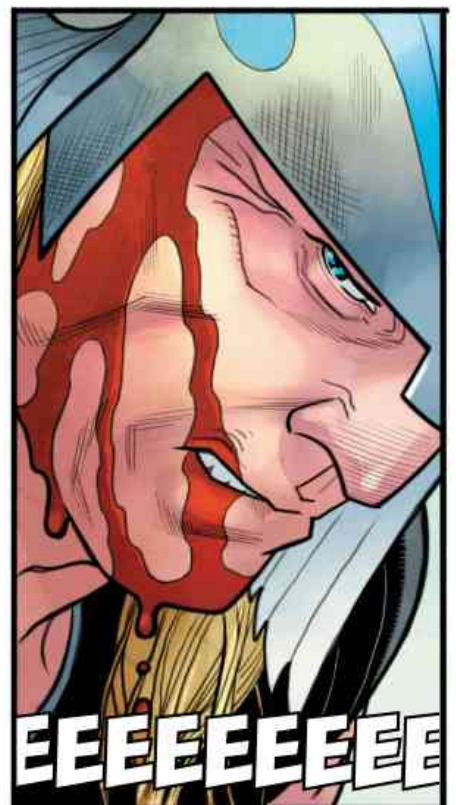


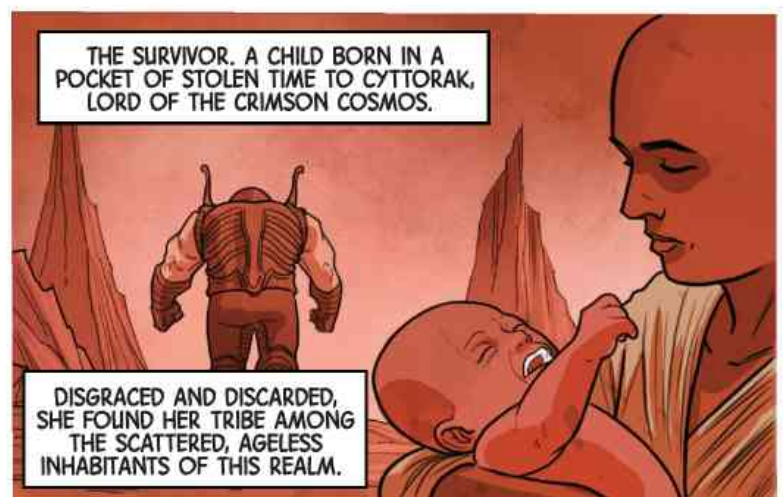
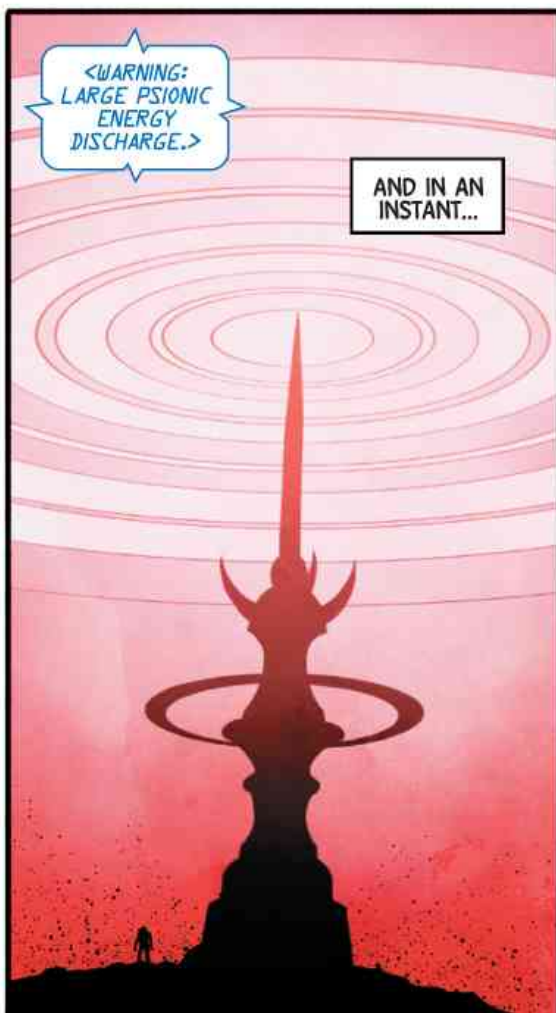
→GLKK!← IS--
→GLKK!← --THE GIRL...
IS SHE SAFE?

EASY!
EASY!

B.O.S.S.P RUN
A SCAN. SHOW
ME INTERNALS.







BUT BEFORE LONG, SHE DISCOVERED THAT THE **CRIMSON BANDS**-- CYTTORAK'S GREATEST WEAPON-- WERE HERS TO COMMAND AS WELL.



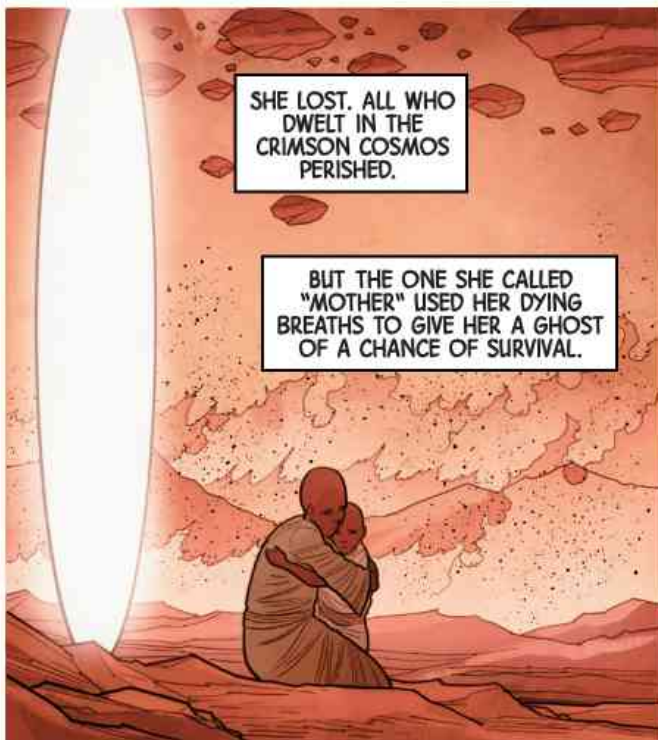
WHEN THE THREE MOTHERS CAME, SHE FOUGHT THEM WITH AN ARMY SHAPED ON THE POTTER'S WHEEL OF HER WILL.

SOME THOUGHT SHE WAS CYTTORAK HIMSELF, BUT SHE HAD MERELY ROBED HERSELF IN THE **SHAPE SHE FEARED MOST**.



SHE LOST. ALL WHO DWELT IN THE CRIMSON COSMOS PERISHED.

BUT THE ONE SHE CALLED "MOTHER" USED HER DYING BREATHS TO GIVE HER A GHOST OF A CHANCE OF SURVIVAL.



AND AS FOR GREAT CYTTORAK, WHOSE NAME IS NEVER SPOKEN ONLY SOBBED?

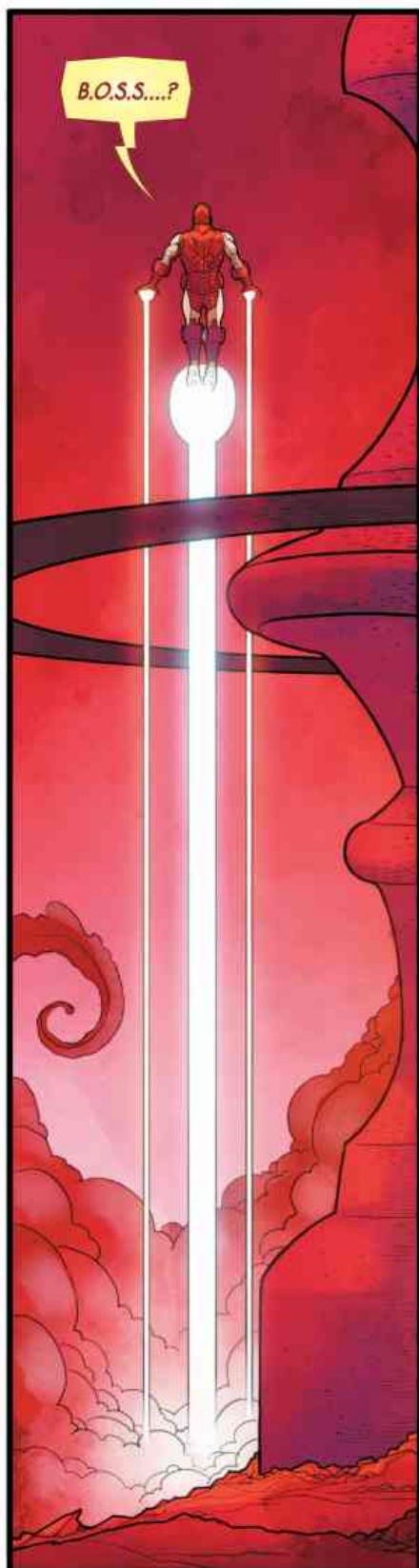
USING THE LAST OF HIS MAGICKS, THE DREAD LORD BRAVELY ABANDONED HIS THRONE AND FLED TO THE FLICKERING REALMS.



JUST A KID.

JUST A KID TRYING TO SCARE OFF THE MONSTERS UNDER THE BED.









--AROL?
THOR, CAN
YOU HEAR
ME?

UGH! HEY,
TONY, DID
YOU NUKE THE
NEXUS?



CAROL,
YOU HAVE TO
LEAVE THAT SPIRE
STANDING!

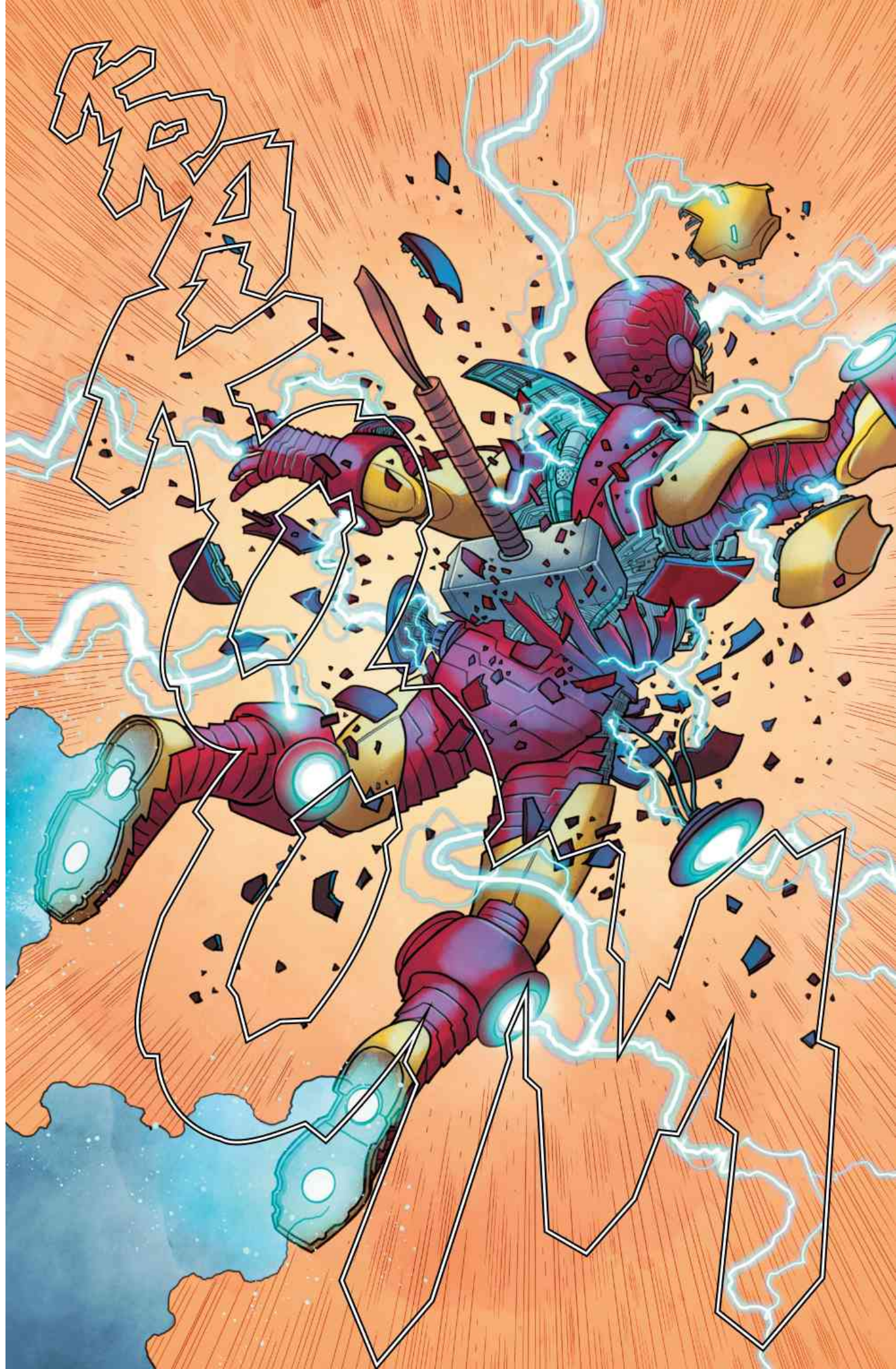
IT COULD
BE A WEAPON,
TONY!



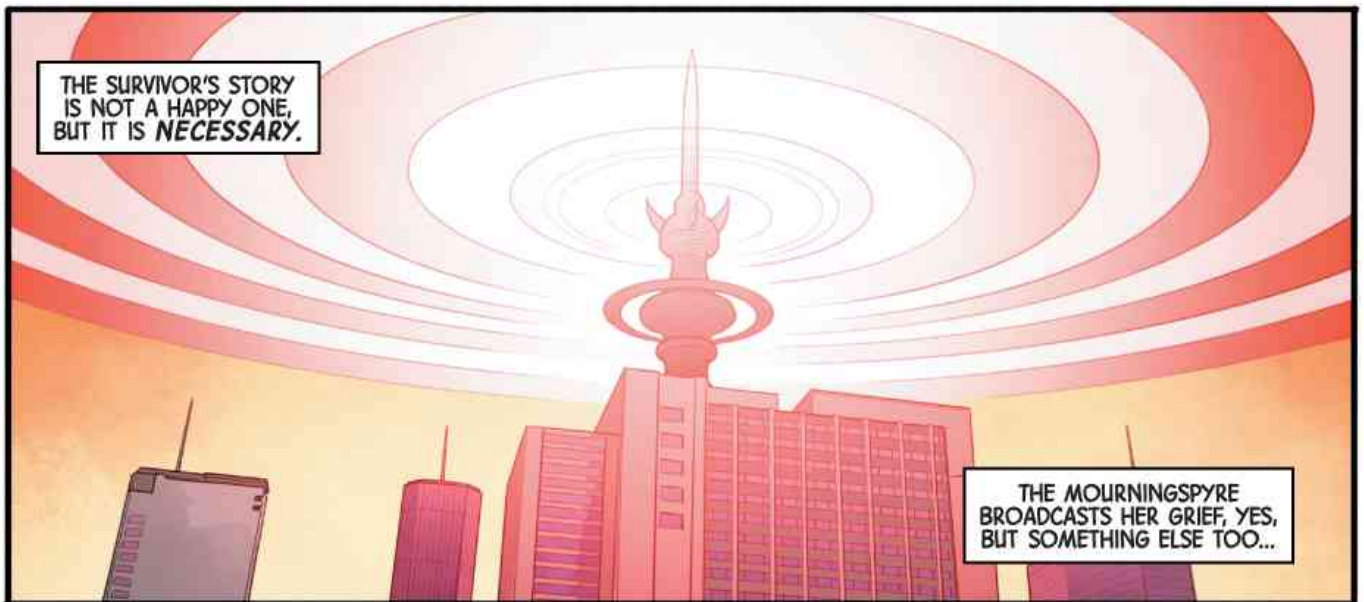
IT'S NOT! IT'S...
A HEADSTONE!

I'LL EXPLAIN
IN A SECOND.
JUST...











THE SORCERER SUPREME
IS DEAD, BUT THERE CAN
BE NO CAPITULATION.

NOT TO MAKERS OF
ORPHANS AND EXILES.



NOW THEY KNOW
THE STAKES. THERE
HAVE BEEN THREATS,
BUT NONE LIKE THIS.

THE CHILD IS
COMING, AND HE
WILL LEAVE NOTHING
FOR THE VULTURES.



THE CHILD
IS HERE.

THE END.

THE STORY
CONTINUES IN
**DEATH OF
DOCTOR
STRANGE #3!**

THE DEATH OF DOCTOR STRANGE

Checklist

~~Death of Doctor Strange #1 - ON SALE NOW~~

~~Death of Doctor Strange #2 - ON SALE NOW~~

~~Death of Doctor Strange: Avengers #1 - ON SALE NOW~~

Strange Academy Presents:

The Death of Doctor Strange #1 - ON SALE NOW

Death of Doctor Strange #3

Death of Doctor Strange: Spider-Man #1

Death of Doctor Strange: White Fox #1

Death of Doctor Strange: Blade #1

Death of Doctor Strange:
X-Men/Black Knight #1

Death of Doctor Strange #4

Death of Doctor Strange #5

